



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
13 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Communist China

A concerted effort to curb Red Guard activity seems to be under way. A number of recent directives and posters have told students to go home, ordered most schools to reopen, and called a halt to the travel of military personnel to participate in the cultural revolution.

Similar directives last November and December did little to curb the Red Guards. The recent ones appear more authoritative, however. Peking is emphasizing that top leaders--including Chou En-lai and Lin Piao--explicitly endorse them.

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

Peking has eased its pressure on the Soviet Embassy. There were no anti-Soviet demonstrations around the embassy today and the staff is now apparently free to leave the compound. The Chinese are also giving gentler treatment to Moscow-Peking passenger trains.

It is too soon to say whether this is more than a temporary truce. Peking officials--and loudspeakers in the streets--are still belching out vitriol against the Soviets.

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4. Soviet Union

Bonn's drive for better relations with Eastern Europe is creating a dilemma for Moscow.

The Soviets cannot throw cold water on the idea of building bridges to Western Europe--because they also want to build some in order to aggravate divisions in NATO and reduce US influence. On the other hand, Moscow probably fears that East European diplomatic relations with Bonn will destroy the bogey of German militarism which the Soviets have exploited to hold the Warsaw Pact together.

13 Feb 67

50X1

5. South Vietnam

This year's end of Tet Communist spectacular--the unsuccessful attack on General Westmoreland's headquarters--is the first Viet Cong mortar attack from within Saigon's city limits.

The mortar shells were lobbed from a point near one of Saigon's numerous small market places, eight blocks from the main US headquarters compound. The house from which the Viet Cong sabotage squad operated blew up; it is unclear whether the Communists escaped before the explosion.

Vietnamese civilian and military casualties now stand at 14 killed and 39 wounded. There were no American casualties.

6. Egypt

Cairo, despite Ambassador Battle's efforts, apparently does not intend to reconsider yesterday's abrupt cancellation of US overflight privileges for planes carrying military supplies to Jordan. A foreign ministry official made it clear today that the regime is smarting over Jordan's closer involvement with Saudi Arabia.

In Amman, the Jordanian acting prime minister (the King and the prime minister are in Saudi Arabia) has agreed to desist for the moment from public attacks on Cairo's action. He made plain, however, that if the Egyptians "make an issue" of the matter, his government would have to respond.

13 Feb 67

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